



*News From*

# JACK DOYLE

## MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**For Immediate Release**

Saturday, June 29, 2002

### **DOYLE OPENS SENSORY GARDEN IN MENDON PONDS PARK**

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today welcomed members from the Regional Center for Independent Living and area residents at a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening Sharon's Sensory Garden. Doyle was joined at the ceremony by Todd Eggert, Director of the Regional Center for Independent Living; and Henry Holden, Founder of Performers with Disabilities for the Screen Actors Guild.

"The Sensory Garden is a wonderful addition to our parks system and offers another unique recreation resource for everyone to enjoy," said Doyle. "By locating the garden next to the Nature Center in Mendon Ponds Park, the county is providing visitors easy and convenient access to the garden."

Sharon's Sensory Garden is a unique garden for people with visual or physical disabilities. The Sensory Garden has over 170 feet of plant exposure designed for visitors to touch, tear, and smell the different plants. The diverse selections of plants have different highlighting color, texture, fragrance, and form. Flowerbeds are raised and pathways through the garden are properly graded for visitors in wheelchairs. Plant listings and labels are in Braille along with raised lettering to help educate visitors.

"I am excited about this new enhancement to Mendon Ponds Park," commented Doyle. "After visiting the garden, you will have a better appreciation of nature as well as increased your awareness of people with disabilities."

Joining County Executive Doyle was Mr. Henry Holden who is the founder of Performers with Disabilities for the Screen Actors Guild. Mr. Holden is a recipient of the Joseph P. Riley Award for his unwavering commitment towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in media. He has produced a documentary called "Look Whose Laughing," a comedy showcase featuring comedians with disabilities and his own show "God Walks On Crutches."

It is believed that there are only a handful of sensory gardens located in the United States.

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*For Further Information, call:  
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